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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/400,222	09/21/1999	YOKO FUJIWARA	325772012000	3189

7590 11/18/2003

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EXAMINER

BRINICH, STEPHEN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/400,222

Applicant(s)

FUJIWARA, YOKO

Examiner

Stephen M Brinich

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 August 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,7,8,13,18,19,24,25 and 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6,9-12,14-17,20-23 and 26-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1-2, 7-8, 13, 18-19, 24-25, & 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JA 6-178133 in view of Pellar.

Re claims 1-2, 7-8, 13, 18-19, 24-25, & 29, JA 6-178133 discloses (Abstract) an arrangement in which the image data of an input page is read and received, the screen angle of the input page is determined based on its image data, a new dither pattern having a different screen angle is selected, and an output document is output and printed using the different screen angle.

JA 6-178133 does not disclose selecting a new dither pattern having a different screen angle from among a plurality of alternatives. The selection of a new dither pattern having a different screen angle from among a plurality of alternatives is known as evidenced by Pellar (column 3, lines 14-18). The use of such a selection in order to, for example, select between 90 degree rotation clockwise and 90 degree rotation counterclockwise in JA 6-178133 would be an expedient obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

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Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 3-6, 9-12, 14-17, 20-23, & 26-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Re claims 3, 9, 14, 20, & 26 (and dependent claims 4, 10, 15, & 21), the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited detection of screen angles for various colors and selection of different screen angles for each of these colors.

Re claims 5, 11, 16, 22, & 27, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited comparison of image data to a plurality of detection patterns and counting of matches to determine an input image screen angle.

Re claims 6, 12, 17, 23 & 28, the art of record does not teach or suggest the recited calculation of average pixel densities around a particular pixel and determination of an input document screen angle based on a density maximum.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 08 August 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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Applicant argues (Paper #8: page 9, line 19 - page 10, line 19) that the Okimoto reference teaches detection of the direction of a paper set on the device for printing and changes the printing screen angle based on that detection, rather than detecting the screen angle of a document image to be printed on the paper.

However, the claims as written recite the detection of "image data" of a "document" and the detection of a screen angle based on this "image data". This recitation does not appear to require any elements that are not found in the detection of the image of a blank page and the detection of a screen angle appropriate to the detected direction of that blank page (as in Okimoto).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Brinich at 703-305-4390. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays 7:00-4:30, alternate Fridays off.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 Customer Service center at 703-306-0377.

If attempts to contact the examiner and the Customer Service Center are unsuccessful, supervisor David Moore can be contacted at 703-308-7452.

Faxes pertaining to this application should be directed to the Tech Center 2600 official fax number, which is 703-872-9306.

Stephen M Brinich
Examiner
Art Unit 2624

smb 
November 4, 2003



THOMAS D
~~JONES~~ LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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